

# The Monitor

*Published Jointly by the Massanutten and Valley Amateur Radio Associations of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley*

## Valley Amateur Radio Loses A Giant: Kenny Harris, KE4GKD, SK

I moped around for two days after the final word came that Ken had passed on. I didn't recognize it for a while but the reason I felt so blue was because of Kenny's passing. How true it is that we don't realize how much someone meant to us till they are gone.

When my secretary came in that Monday after Ken died, I was unusually short with her. I told her abruptly that I didn't feel like talking just yet. Later I had to apologize to her after realizing that this had affected me about as much as my mother's passing a few years ago. I explained to her that Ken was just about the best friend I had and I really missed him a lot.

Ken and I enjoyed organizing things together. We both had a deep desire to keep Mara and Vara working together especially regarding Field Day and the Newsletter. One evening while visiting Ken really surprised me when he told me that he would only consider being Vara club president again if I would agree to continue as treasurer. I took this as a great compliment from someone I admired. We later mused that we both "thought alike" and that made us a good working team.

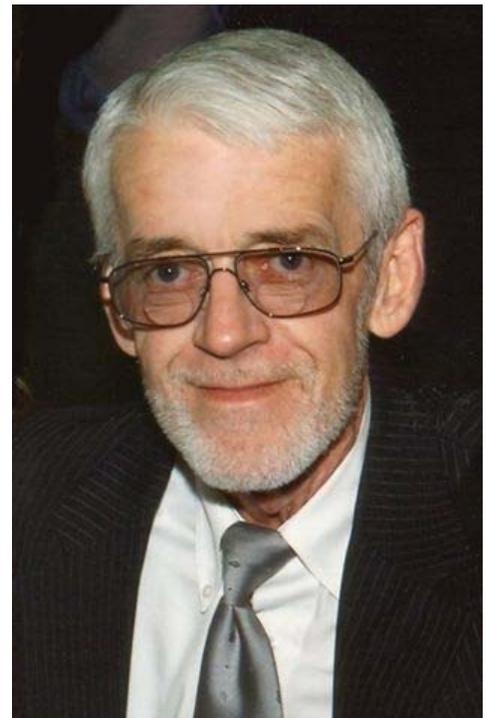
Ken and I worked diligently several years ago to get the paperwork organized for what was then Bike Virginia. Those of you who helped this year with the Bike Festival got

to see that paperwork which we worked on so hard. He unselfishly printed all the paperwork for us for several years on the computer in his ham shack. Several of you have been there helping us collate all the copies and realize how much Ken had to do with keeping that going.

We will miss him – not so much for all the work he did for the club, not so much for all the things he knew how to do that we didn't know, not for all those neat tools which he had so well organized, but rather for all the fun times we had with him and for all those times he made us chuckle, or made us think, or how he..... (add your own reflections here)

Here are just a few of my reflections in no particular order:

- The winch on the front of his truck
- His middle of the night shower at the field day site under the water pouring off his awning
- Generators – he faithfully would change the oil even when it didn't need it
- The camera at his house monitoring who came into the driveway
- That old brown travel trailer with the neat antenna setup for VHF
- Giving Benny a hard time (about everything)



- Always a cup of lemonade or coffee close at hand
- Blue Jeans and a neat clean shirt all the time – did he ever get dirty??
- Grinning at me from the top of the tower at FD – when he knew he had no business up there

All of us who knew Kenny will miss him. He holds a special place in the hearts of all amateurs in the valley...

Jeff W4PJW

## Our Friend Kenny

We would like to tell you a little about Kenny during the years we've known him.

Kenny loved his family and was always doing something to help them. Kenny loved to camp and take the grandchildren along to enjoy the evenings by a campfire roasting hotdogs and marshmallows. He enjoyed mowing grass and took care of lawns at his two step daughters, an elderly neighbor and friends. In the winter he would use his Gravely tractor to clear driveways in the neighborhood, even when it was windy and too cold for him to be working outside.

Kenny never met a stranger, he would always

strike up a conversation and find a subject to talk about with them. Kenny was a good friend to everyone and enjoyed visiting with them. He enjoyed playing practical jokes. He also got a kick out of jokes played on him.

Once he found long Johns hanging from his tower. Some called it a trap door beam antenna by the way they were sticking straight out from the tower.

When someone had a project going on he was always willing to help and made suggestions on an easier or better method of doing it. Kenny was good at that.

Kenny was a good mechanic and learned a lot

while working at a station with his father. He enjoyed working on cars and taking his red 65 Mustang to car shows. Red 6T5 is the license number and his daughter Candi is now the proud owner.

Kenny enjoyed computers, searching the Internet for information and e-Mailing friends to pass along information and even some good jokes. Kenny enjoyed woodworking and built several nice clocks. He was also very good at working on clock movements and adjusting them to keep the correct time.

Kenny was a licensed Amateur Radio Operator known as KE4GKD. He was good at programming

radios for the local repeaters and helped others when they had programming problems.

Kenny was a Lifetime Member of the VARA (Valley Amateur Radio Association) and was elected President for several years. He was also Vice President for a few years later on. Kenny was a great President and leader for the club and worked to get the VARA and MARA clubs working together in area events. He enjoyed Field Day and played a big part in preparation such as finding shelters and checking out equipment, making sure it was in good working condition.

A week or two before Field Day, he would round up some helpers to mow the site so it would be ready when time came to bring in the shelters and set up towers and antennas for the big event.

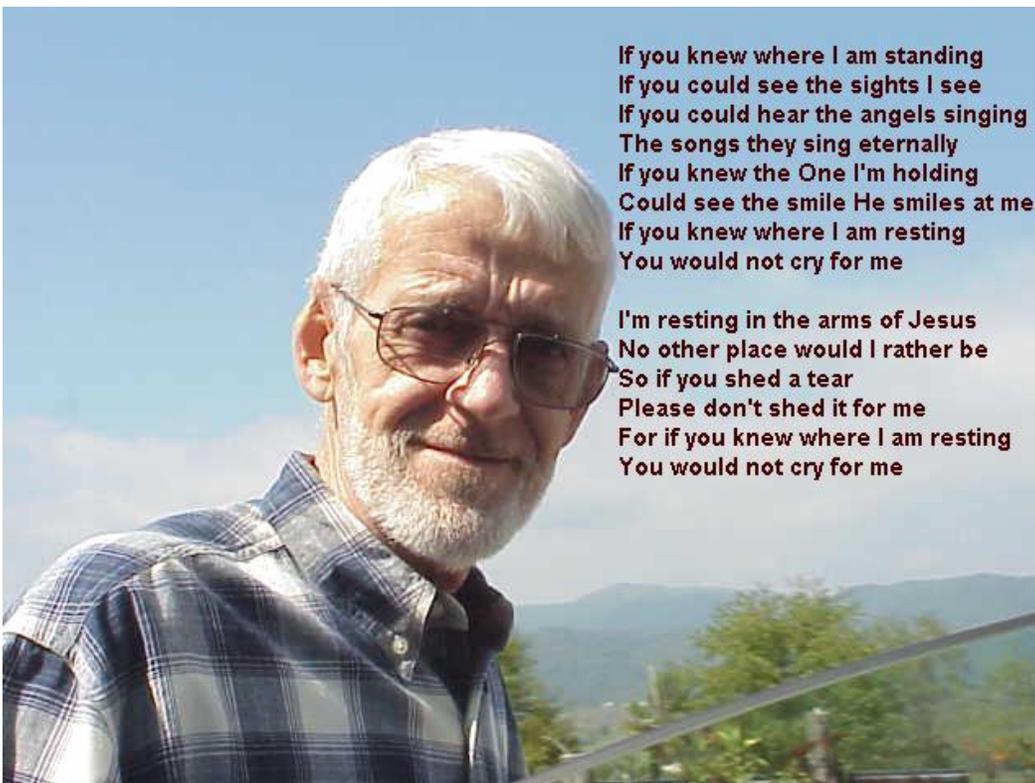
Kenneth Lynn (Kenny) Harris, born August 2, 1946.

He went to be with our Lord October 16, 2005

Kenny will be missed by his family, the community and by all his Amateur Radio friends here in the valley.

Farewell to our great friend, Kenny Harris

The Colvins -- Ray KE4HVR, & Nancy KE4PHP



## MARA President's Message

October found the Shenandoah Valley with many events.

We said our goodbyes to one of our dear friends, Kenny Harris, KE4GKD, who left us on Sunday, October 16. Many of you knew Kenny for a long time, and we were all saddened greatly at his passing. Yet, his memories, and his contributions to ham radio in the valley will continue to live in us.

Many of you have wonderful stories to tell; I encourage you to jot them down, and pass them along, as they all help paint the picture of Kenny, his love of life, and love of friends and family. I also want to pass along our sincerest condolences and thoughts for Janice, and Kenny's family.

I want to thank all of you that came out to participate in the Camp Stillmeadows Horse ride at the beginning of October, and the Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Festival. I am told that Camp Stillmeadows was once again a big success, and that the organizers

were very appreciative of those who helped out during this event. I have no excuses on that one – I forgot to check my calendar, and missed it.

As for the bike ride, I had planned on being there for both days of the Festival – unfortunately, I had a last-minute conflict come up, as I had to fly to Seattle, Washington for a job interview. So while I could not make it, I want to thank those who did come out and give of their time and effort. I am sure that your efforts were greatly appreciated by the riders and participants in the festival.

I also want to thank those that came out to the Golden Corral for the October meeting. I think it was a big success, and that the change of venue for dinner was well received.

For the November meeting, it was decided to try Pano's out at the south end of Harrisonburg on Rte. 11. Please come out to the meeting, and we'll see how Pano's may fare for a future meeting location.

And speaking of the October meeting, it was supposed to have been election night for a new slate of officers. Unfortunately, we did not meet the requirements of having a quorum of members in good standing in order to vote the new officers in.

While the by-laws do not allow a proxy vote, that is giving your vote to another member to vote, it appears that absentee ballots are allowed.

And so with that, we would ask that if you are not able to attend the November meeting, please fill out the absentee ballot enclosed in this month's Monitor, sign it with your name and call sign, and mail, or email it before the November 3, 2005 meeting date. You can mail it to the club address, or email it to Bryan Daniels, Club Secretary, at [KG4RMY@ARRL.NET](mailto:KG4RMY@ARRL.NET) or me at [KG4UPN@ARRL.NET](mailto:KG4UPN@ARRL.NET).

Concerning the club officers, a suggestion was brought up at the October meeting. The suggestion said that as it was almost

impossible to get people to step up and take the leadership roles of President and Vice President, that it might be better for MARA to undergo steps of dissolving the corporation, and effectively just become a dinner club.

There was a lot of discussion concerning this, and I think it was very constructive for all of the input.

I know that the very thought of dissolving MARA as a corporation is upsetting to some, with all of the time and effort put into it over the years. It is also understandable, when some individuals have given many years of service to the group. I do believe that the suggestion has had one positive effect, and that is to have people sit back and think what we as MARA are here for. And I look forward to more discussion on this issue at the November meeting. After all, it is YOUR club – let us know what you think!

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Karle  
KG4UPN  
MARA President

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### MARA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

(Reprise — Due to Lack of Quorum at the October Meeting)

### FEATURING OFFICER ELECTIONS!

THURSDAY — NOVEMBER 3

## PANO'S RESTAURANT

U.S. 11 South  
Harrisonburg

Meal Starts at 6:30 pm, Business Meeting Starts at 7:30 pm



## VARA President's Message

October has been a combination of highs and lows for the VARA club. The Shenandoah Fall Foliage Bike Ride was a big success. I enjoyed helping on Saturday and actually got my first chance to be net control of an event.

Thanks to Gayle Shull for helping with net control from the Sangerville-Towers Ruritan building. I was very careful not to use the word 'Race' instead of 'Ride'. Jeff (W4PJW) had corrected me several times about this before the event.

Thanks to the many hams that helped make this event a success.

I would like to welcome Darrell Little, KI4LLA, as the newest member of VARA. Darrell was a big help with our Great Endurance Race in September and the Shenandoah Bike Ride in October. Welcome, Darrell !!

As we start to think about the upcoming holidays, the club members have decided to have the December meeting as Spouse's Night. I would like to invite everyone to bring their spouse or a date to Kathy's for the evening. We are planning a program of entertainment for the evening.

On a sad note, the club said goodbye to an old

friend, Kenny Harris, KE4GKD. I first started attending VARA meetings in the fall of 2002. Kenny was the President of the club and he was one of the first persons that I met when I started attending. I enjoyed our conversations that we had on the 146.850 repeater. I always enjoyed listening in when he was talking to others. It was obvious from listening to him and all of his long time friends that he was much admired by members of our group. Our prayers go out to Kenny's family.

The "Quote of the Month" is a tribute to Kenny. I love to read Civil War history and a popular poet of that

time period was Walt Whitman. When Whitman thought of the death of Abraham Lincoln, he was inspired to write perhaps his most famous poem, "O Captain, ! My Captain! : These lines come from that poem and is a tribute to Kenny; : "O Captain! my Captain! Our fearful trip is done, the ship has weathered every rack the prize we sought is won."

Marvin Henderson  
VARA President

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## VARA Officers for 2006

PRESIDENT: **Marvin Henderson**  
VICE-PRESIDENT: **Mike Solomon**  
SECRETARY: **Ray Colvin**  
TREASURER: **Doug Tippett**  
PROGRAM MANAGER: **Richard Huttinger**



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## Bike Rides Public Service Report

This year's bike riders had a great weekend for riding and another safe year. We didn't hear of any bikers getting hurt and only seven were transported during both days of riding. The leaves were not "colored up" yet this year like they usually are but the riders seemed to enjoy it just the same. We had lots of riders come by and wave and thank us for being there for them. We had a total of 16 hams that gave up a great weekend to come out and help us this year. We want to thank everyone for their efforts during the weekend.

A special thanks to these four hams.

- **Gayle KU4XN** – Thanks to Gayle for getting the trailer and pulling it to the site.
- **Brian N4IRT** – Brian did a great job patrolling on his motorcycle.
- **Marvin KF4WDI** – Marvin did a great job getting the event organized.
- **EC KG4KUR** – EC heard we were short of help and came to help Cowles

Again, thanks to all that helped make the event a success again this year.

*Ray Colvin* KE4HVR

## Thanks to Those Who Helped With the Fall Foliage Bike Rides

Gayle	KU4XN
Brian	N4IRT
Marvin	KF4WDI
E.C.	KG4KUR
Jeff	W4PJW
Greg	W4GRC
Doug	N8ESW
Darrell	KI4LLA
Ron	W4ZEE
Ron	KI4FZH
Mike	KJ4RM & his wife Betsy
Joe	KD4FKT
Cowles	K4EME
Steve	KI4CGI
Steve's wife	Fran with the EMT equipment.
Gary	KI4FZV
Ray	KE4HVR



Above: Gayle KU4XN, and Benny N4BCC at net control, with Joe KD4FKT looking on at the door. Below: Ray KE4HVR and Joe KD4FKT watch as Jeff W4PJW enjoys some lunch. Hams were provided free meals.

Below, the scene at the Natural Chimney's Lunch Area where the bikers and the hams enjoyed the meals.



## Thanks to KG4OON

Once again, gratitude is due to Mike Reno, KG4OON, for his help in printing and distributing the Monitor this month. This month's issue comes to you from Belgium, but Mike is the domestic producer, printing the paper copies, collating, folding, stapling them, printing the mailing labels, sticking the labels on the copies, sealing, then putting on the stamps, and finally, taking them to the post office. THANKS, Mike, for all you do.

## Map: Where the Hams Are...

Here's a really cool website:  
<http://hams.mapmash.com/hammap.php>

Charlie Garner, WA4ITY, provided this link which lets you enter a callsign, and it will display a map of the ham's neighborhood. It is off a little bit, but will get you close enough to hear his signal on simplex!

## ARES EC for Rockingham County: Bryan Daniels K4RMY

Bryan Daniels, K4RMY, has been named the official Emergency Coordinator for ARES in Rockingham County.

The position of EC is the primary county-level radio coordinator for the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, an arm of the ARRL.

The ARES service complements the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service when ham radio is needed to provide communications support in the event of a disaster.

RACES stations must be activated by a governmental action. Stations in the RACES service report directly to government officials, whether state, local, or federal, and the agencies operating under the government's official relief efforts.

By contrast, ARES has more flexibility, and provides services to a wider range of organizations, as well as assisting the official government stations when requested. ARES drills often involve non-government organizations, and support is provided for a number of emergency and non-emergency communications needs.

In his new capacity as ARES EC, Bryan will work closely with Vic Alger, KE4LKQ, who is the RACES officer for Rockingham County.

These two hams are the primary "point men" when ham radio is called upon to react in an emergency. But they cannot do their job unless the hams volunteer to do theirs!

Bryan and Vic would like to repeat the call for local hams to "step forward and sign up".

Now is the time for hams to register (or renew their registration) as willing and able to volunteer for service.

By signing up in advance, you give Bryan and Vic valuable information about the "inventory" of hams available for service, and their capabilities. This information is critical in making an emergency response plan.

The announcement of an imminent emergency is not the time to be spending trying to figure out who is and who is not available. That should be done long before any emergency

threatens.

Bryan and Vic already have big jobs on their hands. How about making their job a little easier by contacting them directly to volunteer your station in either RACES or ARES service?

RACES stations need to be certified by the RACES organization, and free training is available (contact Vic for more details).

ARES training is highly recommended also. Both these organizations can accept help from hams with a wide range of training and experience levels.

What matters is that you are willing to help when needed.

## Rockingham County ARES/RACES Net Moves to 147.225 Repeater

The Monday night ARES/RACES net in Rockingham County has moved to the 147.225 N4RAG repeater for the time being, due to a technical issue.

The 147.225 machine requires a PL tone of 131.8 Hz, and has an input frequency up 600 kilohertz.

The Rockingham County ARES net meets every Monday at 8:00 pm local time.

On the first Monday of every month, the net meets on a simplex frequency, usually 146.550, and often conducts drills, exer-

cises, and tests to help hams discover the range and coverage of their stations.

On all other Monday nights, the net meets on the repeater.

The net is a great way to stay informed of happenings in the area.

All hams are invited to check in, not just ARES or RACES members.

Thanks to N4YET and N4RAG for their support of the nets.

## For Sale:

Todd Harrison, K4TMH, has the following items he's willing to part with:

**Icom IC-746 \$750,**  
**Ameritron AL-811H \$450,**  
**Diamond DPGH-62 \$75,**

If you are interested, please email him at:  
[k4tmh@toddharrison.ws](mailto:k4tmh@toddharrison.ws)

## Morse Code Ring Tones for your Cellular Phone!

What a way to impress your friends! Check out the following URL (but be sure it is typed without spaces!):

[http://  
www.braintank.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/midi/  
morse2mid.php](http://www.braintank.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/midi/morse2mid.php)

This site lets you enter a text message, and it then creates a morse code sound file of that message in CW! You get to select pitch and speed. You can download that file as a MIDI file, or any of a number of other sound file formats.

The best part is, they have a feature whereby they will convert your morse code sound file into a cellular phone ring tone which you can download to your cell phone!

If you don't know what a ringtone is, don't worry, it's something the younger generation is familiar with, and that's why having a Morse Code ring tone just might help get a new generation of hams interested in the hobby!

Thanks to Don Landes WX4C for this URL!

## Next VE Exams: December 3

Gayle KU4XN and the VE crew could use some help at the December 3 testing session. If you are free, please consider helping out. The sessions usually last from 9:00 am to just before noon.

If you are not yet an accredited Volunteer Examiner, contact Gayle Shull at 540-828-2132 for information how you can become a VE and assist with this valuable public service.

## Monitoring Local Rainfall without a Rain Gauge

For those interested in seeing how the local streams are coping with the current rainfall, Bill Karle KG4UPN sent us a site that receives reports from the Automated Flood Warning System (AFWS) where you can see in real time the reports from the rain and level gauges on selected lakes, creeks and river in the mid-Atlantic region. If you click on Virginia on the home page, it will show you which counties contain the equipment. Clicking on one of the counties, such as Augusta or Rockingham will give you the data from the last 15 minutes to 24 hours, and a map of where the gauges are located.

<http://www.afws.net/default.htm>

## Easy Way to Move Files Between Computers

Have you experienced the maddening frustration of having to purchase a new computer, and then spending hours upon hours moving your files from your old computer to your new one?

Ray Colvin tells us of a little device called "moveitover" for moving files from one computer to another.

<http://news.moveitover.com/site/komando.shtml>

This might be able to save you tons and tons of time, and what's more, you might be able to go in with some friends (or a club maybe?) and pool together and get one to share!

## Free Telephone Number Information ... by Phone!

Are you old enough to remember when you could dial "411" Information, and a telephone operator would give you the phone number of someone, **for free**? There aren't a whole lot of people that old anymore. Free Information is a thing of the past.

Or is it? Bob Jensen told us about a service called "1-800-Free411". Check it out next time you need a phone number, and aren't near your computer and can't use Switchboard.com.

1-800-Free411 is easy to remember, and it works almost everywhere. There really is no charge! Of course, anything free always come with a catch. The service expects to shortly be adding a short 10-second advertisement before you get connected to an operator. But listening to a 10-second ad might be preferable to paying 50-cents or more to find out that phone number that you left sitting on your dresser at home!

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## Editorial: MARA? Or MARA, Inc.? We Must Decide.

If a quorum of members is in attendance at the November meeting, two very important issues will be decided.

If a quorum is **not** in attendance, those same two issues might be decided, but in a very different way.

The first issue, of course, is the slate of officers for next year. But the second issue is much more important: Should MARA continue to be a chartered corporation under the laws of the state of Virginia?

Some of the reasons for chartering as a corporation to start with was to protect the officers from legal liability, to allow the club to own titleable property, and to make it easier to obtain IRS 501(c)3 status.

Looking back on it, we could have obtained the tax-exempt status without incorporation, and so far, the need for corporate ownership of titled property has not materialized.

The primary benefit to maintaining corporate status is the legal protection afforded the officers and members. If something goes wrong at Field Day or some other club activity, being a corporation might protect an individual from a lawsuit. In this day and age, that is a very real benefit, worth more than a little value! It might be worth millions to someone.

So by providing this protection, the corporation is *supposed* to make it easier to find officers willing to serve and lead.

But that hasn't been the case. We still have difficulty coming up with people willing to serve as officers. Why?

Officers of corporations are required by law to fulfill some legal obligations. Officers must hold regular, formal meetings of the executive committee at which notes are kept, must file annual reports with state and federal agencies, keep detailed inventories of our assets, put internal controls in place to protect those assets, and under the new laws, document those controls. The officers must prepare and publish annual financial statements which meet state and federal guidelines, and conduct formal audits of those statements. This is a lot of work.

**But as a corporation, the members also have legal responsibility which must be taken seriously.** The membership must hold a meeting at least annually where enough members show up to make a quorum. The membership must also provide six individuals willing to staff the officer positions required by the articles of incorporation.

**These are not options, they are legal requirements and they must be met by the membership if we are to continue as a corporation.**

Corporate status also reduces flexibility. Many times over the past few years, various proposals and suggestions for improvement to the club's organization or operation have been raised. But someone points out that we "cannot do that" without amending the corporate charter or by-laws. Changing the charter or by-laws requires 2/3rds of the membership at a meeting, — **something that hasn't happened for years!**

If we can't even get enough members to turn out to make a quorum at the annual meeting, we need to ask: What do we want, an informal group with a newsletter, or a corporation?

The benefit of incorporation depends on what activities we want the club to do — or not do — in the coming months and years. Think about it.

The time has come to take a hard look at what activities we want to engage in. Not others. *Us*. What activities do WE want to do?

A lot people worked many hours, for free, to provide us with our corporate status. We've inherited a literal fortune from someone else's hard work. So the question is, where do we go from here? Are we interested in doing the things that they envisioned when they so graciously donated their time and effort? Or would we prefer to do other things?

These are our decisions. We get to decide. But we *have* to decide.

## Absentee Ballot for Massanutten Amateur Radio Association Slate of Officers, 2005 – 2006

In order to vote, you must be a member of MARA in good standing. All names will be checked for accuracy. Choose 1 for each position. Please fill in a write-in candidate name If you wish to nominate someone for a position.

President:

Richard Weaver , W3HXX      Yes                  No

Write – in candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Vice President:

Gerald Nauman, KN4FM    Yes                  No

Write – in candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary:

Bryan Daniels, K4RMY      Yes                  No

Write – In candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer:

Sandy Mullins, K4PZC      Yes                  No

Write – In candidate \_\_\_\_\_

Board Member at Large

David Gordon, KB4LCI      Yes                  No

Write-In candidate: \_\_\_\_\_  
(term expires 2007 – replaces John Nelson)

Board Member at Large

Write-in candidate: \_\_\_\_\_  
(partial term expiring 2006 – replaces Richard Weaver who is running for president)

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Call sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in, sign and list call sign, mail to:

**MARA, P.O. Box 1882, Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
Attention: absentee ballot**

or email your voting information to:

[KG4UPN@ARRL.NET](mailto:KG4UPN@ARRL.NET) or [KG4RMY@ARRL.NET](mailto:KG4RMY@ARRL.NET) **no later than November 1, 2005.**

## VARA Secretary's Report -- October 4 Meeting

The Valley Amateur Radio Association met at Kathy's in Verona on October 4, 2005. The President, Marvin Henderson KF4WDI, opened the meeting at 7:30pm. There were 20 members present and 5 guests, Fran Davis, Bob Van Fossen K4DJG, Andrew Barbour AG4XN, John Bottemiller N4SYH and Bill Karle KG4UPN.

Welcome to our visitors, and we would like to see all of you back next month.

**50/50:** Winner was Ray LaFalce K2ULW. Congratulations Ray, free meal tonight?

**New Member:** Darrell Little KI4LLA, Welcome to the VARA Darrell!

**Christmas 2006:** The VARA voted to have our regular monthly meeting and Christmas at Kathy's on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.

Richard Huttinger AA4RH will order CD's and Tapes from ARRL to be used for programs at the club meetings.

We have three volunteers on a committee to decide how the VARA can help with the Katrina Hurricane relief. They are, Mike Solomon KJ7RM, Richard Huttinger AA4RH and Greg Czerniak W4GRC.

### VARA OFFICERS FOR 2006 ARE:

**President:** Marvin Henderson

**Vice-Pres:** Mike Solomon

**Treasurer:** Doug Tippett

**Secretary:** Ray Colvin

**Programs:** Richard Huttinger

### ON THE SICK LIST:

**Ken Harris KE4GKD** became a silent key on October 16, 2005.

**Queenie, Clinton's (KB4OLM) wife** still has health concerns but is improving.

**Denny Morland N4XPW** is home from the nursing home and continuing therapy at AMC.

**Lets keep these folks in our thoughts and prayers.**

**Remember:** We are in Hurricane Season, keep your batteries charged and radio's programmed for local repeaters and simplex frequencies in case you are called out.

### SWAP SHOP:

**This is for Ham related items only.** You can send a list of items you have for sale, swap or something you would like to buy, to Billy Hooke KG4JOF at: kg4jof@arrl.net Also a picture of the item would help it sell. Go to VARA Web Site at: <http://www.qsl.net/w4xd/> **PLEASE notify Billy when your item is sold.**

**ADDRESSES!!! Keep your e-mail address up to date.** Please send them to: Marvin Henderson KF4WDI [marvista@ntelos.net](mailto:marvista@ntelos.net) Jeff Rinehart W4PJW [jmrinehart@yahoo.com](mailto:jmrinehart@yahoo.com) Ray Colvin KE4HVR [colvingr@adelphia.net](mailto:colvingr@adelphia.net) and David Fordham KD9LA [fordhadr@jmu.edu](mailto:fordhadr@jmu.edu) Also, it's good to keep QRZ updated when call signs and e-mail addresses are changed.

**ARES NET:** David Tanks AD4TJ is looking for Net Controls for the Augusta County ARES Net. The Net will be held on the 146.850 repeater on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month at 8:00pm. This repeater has a minus offset and a tone of 131.8 when needed. Fox hunts are also scheduled for some months as weather permits.

**PROGRAMS NEEDED:** Richard AA4RH, Program Chairman, is looking for anyone that would like to do a program for the club. Give him a call and set up a date to present it. It does not have to be HAM related. It could be anything you think the group would find interesting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Gordon Batey WA4JFC brought in a 2M loop antenna he had built from an article in QST for a show and tell. He said he built it for fox hunting in the beginning but it didn't work well for that but he has used it for other events and it worked well. He said the antenna has 6db gain and is made of 3/4" copper pipe, an SO-239 connector and an insulated gamma match in a 1/4" tube. He had it mounted on an extendable mast from a folding tripod for portability.

Submitted By:

VARA Secretary

Ray Colvin KE4HVR

## MARA Secretary's Report -- October 6 Meeting

The October MARA meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm Oct. 6, 2005. Bill Karle KG4UPN Presiding. Introductions were made. Sick List: Phyllis K4VZC is in the cardiac care unit at RMH.

Secretary's report was approved as printed.

Treasurer: no report.

Announcements: Vanity call issues are on hold by FCC due to the hurricanes in the Gulf.

Public Service:

Bike Shenandoah. James KI4FZY did net control and things went very well. We had a good turnout of members.

Camp Still Meadows ride. Oct. 2. James KI4FZY did net control and things went well. Amateurs were well received.

There will be an endurance race of 100 miles that would like amateur operators to help. See Bill KG4UPN for info.

Skywarn: has not called Andrew back about the classes. We have about 50 people willing to take the level one class. Dick W3HXH is going to talk with them to see about getting a class.

Committee reports :

VE: Sat Oct. 8th next VE session

ARES/RACES: no report

QRP Group: ordering 20m Rockmite kits to build. The QRP group is looking a new place for their meeting.

VMRC: no real report, just interference on cable TV. W9UAL visited the station and is interested in moving to the valley and VMRC

Old business:

Elections-

no candidate for president accepted nomination.

VP- Gerald KN4FM

Sect.- Bryan K4RMY

Treas. -Sandy K4PZC

Member at large- David Gordon KB4LCI

There was not a quorum for a vote on officers. Motion made and passed to carry vote until next month, November meeting.

Fall Foliage Bike Ride Oct. 15th and 16th with VARA. Help is needed. Stations will be set up at fixed points this year to conserve gas.

New business:

There was discussion about the lack of an ARES EC in Rockingham Co. Membership forms for ARES were passed out by Bryan K4RMY. Bryan K4RMY volunteered to act as ARES EC.

50/50 Drawing was held and won by Nancy KG4JAZ \$11.00

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Bryan Daniels, K4RMY

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## Upcoming Events

November 1: VARA Club Meeting (Kathy's)

November 3: MARA Annual Meeting (Pano's)

November 5-6: ARRL CW Sweepstakes

November 19-20: ARRL SSB Sweepstakes

November 26-27: CQ WW CW Contest

December 1: MARA Christmas Dinner (Traditions)

December 3: VE Exams in Dayton VA

December 2-4: ARRL 160m Contest

December 6: VARA Christmas Dinner (Kathy's)

December 10-11: ARRL 10m Contest

## Don't Forget the Nets!



Massanutten and Valley  
Amateur Radio Associations  
C/o David Fordham  
131 Wayside Drive  
Weyers Cave, VA 24486

**MARA ELECTION MEETING:  
PANO'S RESTAURANT!**

**MASSANUTTEN AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, Inc.**

President: Bill Karle KG4UPN  
Vice President: Andrew Barbour AG4XN  
Secretary: Bryan Daniels K4RMY  
Treasurer: Sandy Mullins, K4PZC  
Board (exp 05): John Nelson N3JN  
Board (exp 06): Richard Weaver W3HXX

<http://mara.ws>

MARA meets the first Thursday of each month  
The November meeting will be at **Pano's**,  
US 11 South of Harrisonburg  
Meal starts at 6:30 pm.  
Business meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

**Visitors are welcome.**

Dues (\$12 per year) should be mailed to:

MARA  
PO Box 1882  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

**VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

President: Marvin Henderson, KF4WDI  
Vice President: Mike Solomon, KJ4RM  
Secretary: Ray Colvin, KE4HVR  
Treasurer: Doug Tippet, N8ESW  
Program Manager: Richard Huttering, AA4RH

<http://www.qsl.net/w4xd>

VARA meets the first Tuesday of each month  
at Kathy's Restaurant on U.S. 11 north of  
the traffic light in Verona.  
Meal starts at 6:00 pm.  
Business meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

**Visitors are welcome.**

Dues (\$15 per year) should be mailed to:

Doug Tippet  
2348 Mosley St  
Waynesboro VA 22980